

Library Quarterly

WINTER 2023–2024

Anticipated Winter Bestsellers p.1

Political Scientist in Residence p.2

One Book, One Community p.8



the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library



Message from the Director

The rhythm of a new school year has been established, the weather is cooling, and as we prepare for the end of the year and for winter, it is a great time to reflect on the year and to plan for new beginnings. I invite you to make the library a regular part of your routine as we enter 2024. Vernon Area Public Library offers space, materials, services, and programs to delight learners of all ages, from birth to age 100 and beyond.

Once again, Vernon Area Public Library staff have outdone themselves with a fantastic lineup of activities for the community this winter. The library offers seven weekly storytimes tailored to our youngest patrons' individual developmental stages. Library staff have developed elementary school and teen offerings that cover visual, musical and performing arts; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) focused programs; and book discussions. Adults in the community can take advantage of programs focused on local history, technology, the arts and current events as well as discussions on literary selections. Our Annual "One Book, One Community" with Indian Trails and Cook Memorial public libraries kicks off again this month with an array of programs related to themes found within this year's pick. Additionally, in 2024, Vernon Area is utilizing the expertise of a "Political Scientist in Residence" to provide non-partisan information to help patrons navigate the upcoming election cycle.

Best of all, these offerings enable all of us to learn and grow together as a community. In an increasingly fraught world, it is more important than ever that we benefit from the value that community and shared experiences can provide. All are welcome at Vernon Area Public Library—we hope to see you soon!

Vernon Area Public Library

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CONTRIBUTORS

Jane Berman, Laura Cohen,
Roz Topolski

IMAGE CREDITS

p.4: Martha Wells by Lisa Blaschke,
Julia Quinn by Roberto Filho; p.9:
Brendan Slocumb by David Bickley;
p.15: Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Contact

Feedback: LQ@VAPLD.info

Sign up for news and program
info by email: VAPLD.info/subscribe

Main: 847-634-3650

Library cards, renewals:
224-543-1483

Adult Desk: 224-543-1485,
AdultDesk@VAPLD.info

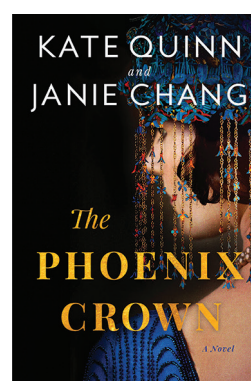
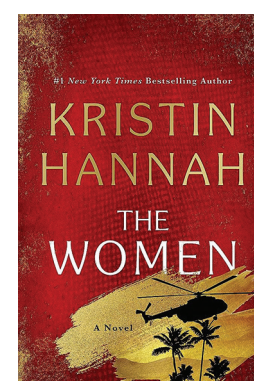
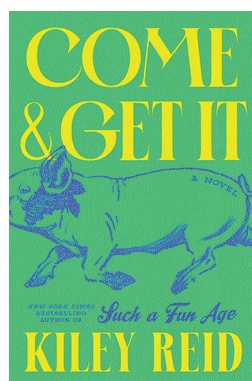
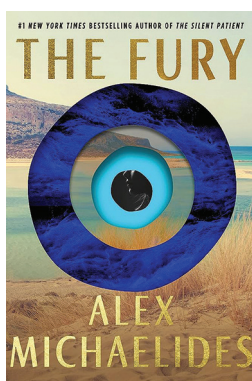
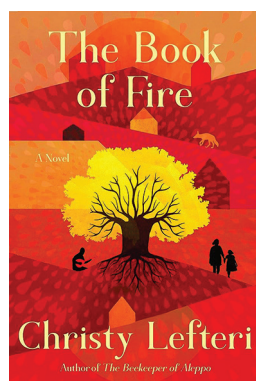
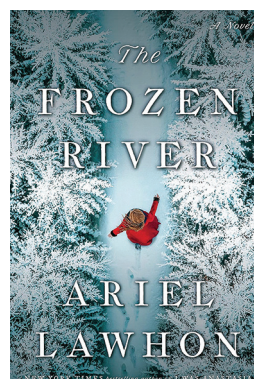
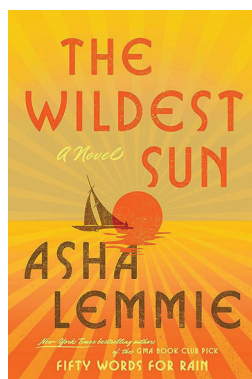
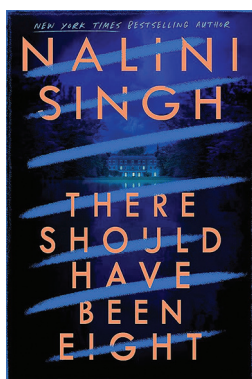
Youth Desk: 224-543-1486,
YouthDesk@VAPLD.info

Senior/Homebound: 224-543-1406,
senior@VAPLD.info



Hot to Hold

These hot upcoming releases will help you stay toasty no matter how cold it gets outside! Place these titles on hold now and get ready for the good reads to roll in all winter long.



Day

by Michael Cunningham

The Frozen River

by Ariel Lawhon

Come & Get It

by Kiley Reid

There Should Have Been Eight

by Nalini Singh

Flores and Miss Paula

by Melissa Rivero

The Women

by Kristin Hannah

The Wildest Sun

by Asha Lemmie

The Book of Fire

by Christy Lefteri

The Phoenix Crown

by Kate Quinn, Janie Chang

The Fury

by Alex Michaelides

Looking for even more buzzworthy books? Subscribers to Books & Authors e-news receive two emails per month full of librarian-curated reading recommendations and a sneak peek of exciting new releases. Sign up at VAPLD.info/subscribe



Dr. Alexandra Filindra

Political Scientist in Residence

For many of us, our US civics and government classes were long ago, and some of the procedural details might be a bit fuzzy. Some election procedures have been updated. For example, are you familiar with ranked choice voting? Are you clear on the difference between a delegate and an elector? Or perhaps this is your first time participating in a US election and you'd like to prepare.

During the 2024 election cycle, we're going to learn (or refresh our knowledge) about the election process with Dr. Alexandra Filindra, associate professor of Political Science at University of Illinois Chicago. As Political Scientist in Residence for the library, Dr. Filindra will lead lectures, provide recommended reading, and create opportunities for our community to explore non-partisan topics of importance so that eligible voters can fully engage with our local, state and federal elections.

"I look forward to answering questions about what we know about politics, why people behave the way they do in politics, and how to distinguish good information from bad information," said Filindra.

"I hope to help people understand a little bit better how the government works. Trust in our government is

fundamental for tackling society's major challenges — our institutions are our collective power and we need to understand how they work and that even with their limitations, they do a pretty good job."

Dr. Filindra holds a Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University and served as a post-doctoral researcher at Brown University's Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions and the Center for the Study of Human Development. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Regional Studies*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, *Harvard Education Review*, *Migration Studies*, *International Migration* and other scholarly journals.

Election Literacy 2024: Political Process & Psychology

Civic engagement starts with understanding the political process. Let's start the election year off strong with a discussion about the current cycle of political activities and topics with Dr. Alexandra Filindra, associate professor of Political Science and Psychology at the University of Illinois Chicago. Improve your knowledge about primary season, debates, and fundraising. Plus, learn some introductory concepts about how psychology plays a role in voter behavior.

Sunday, January 28, 1– 2 pm  

Featured Resources *for adults*



TAX FORMS

Paper copies of the most common tax forms are available at the library once we receive them. Find them in the library lobby — usually by mid-February.



THE ECONOMIST

You've seen the news, now discover the story. Get full access to the digital version of *The Economist* (a \$209 value) when you use your library card to log in on PressReader. VAPLD.info/PressReader



COPY, PRINT, SCAN, FAX

No printer? No problem! The Copy Center in the library is your all-in-one service center. Even send documents to the library printer from home, then stop by and pick up. Nominal fees apply. VAPLD.info/copy-print

Classes & Events *for adults*

Note location with each event (🏠 in person, 📺 online). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1485.

Sign up for Citizenship Preparation Classes

Get ready for your citizenship test in a small group. Content includes speaking, reading and writing English, plus U.S. history and civics. Classes meet online on Tuesday evenings from January 16–April 2. Sign up at VAPLD.info/citizenship.

December 1: Signup begins for Vernon Area Library cardholders

January 3: Registration for all others

Charlie Brown Christmas Concert

The Chris White Trio performs Vince Guaraldi's nostalgic jazz soundtrack, "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Sunday, December 3, 1–2 pm 🏠

Sweet Treats from the Midwest

Discover the regional origin stories of brownies, Bundt cakes and other sweets from author/food enthusiast Amy Gail Hansen, plus quick tricks for holiday versions of these favorites.

Tuesday, December 5, 1–2 pm 📺 🏠

Open Makerspace

Stop by to work on projects using the Silhouette Cameo precision cutter, the sublimation printer or craft supplies from previous Makerspace classes including jewelry making and card making. Signup is required.

Thursday, December 7, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏠

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏠

One Book, One Community Kickoff

Stop by to pick up your complimentary copy of this year's book. One copy per household while supplies last. No signup required. Learn more on page 8 or at 1book.org.

Sunday, December 10, 1–2 pm 🏠

Path to Citizenship Webinar

A one-hour overview of the journey from Green Card holder to US citizen. Includes information about eligibility, N-400 applications, medical exceptions, fees, public benefits, and the interview and oath ceremony.

Tuesday, December 12, 6–7 pm 📺


Illinois Libraries Present

Log in for live events with celebrated authors and cultural influencers. Sign up in advance to receive the Zoom link.

These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries. Funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).




Surviving the Holidays with Lori Gottlieb

Wednesday, December 6, 7–8 pm 



Speculating our AI Future with Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu & Martha Wells



Thursday, January 11, 7–8 pm 



Cartoonist Jerry Craft: Draw Your Own Comics


FAMILY PROGRAM

In-person watch party at the library or online.

Tuesday, February 6, 7–8 pm  



Author Julia Quinn Discusses Bridgerton and All Things Romance

Thursday, February 20, 7–8 pm 

Secret Chicago: The Weird, Wonderful & Obscure

Think you know Chicago? Join author Jessica Mlinaric for an evening of weird Chicago trivia. Her book *Secret Chicago* details 90 unique and unusual places, like a grave in a junkyard and a pool under the Loop. Come test your knowledge and learn about some of Chicago's most obscure surprises.

Wednesday, December 13, 7–8 pm  

Maker Class

Come for an evening, leave with a finished product you make yourself using provided supplies and instruction.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm 

December 14: Last-Minute Gifts

January 11: Birch Tree Painting

February 8: Valentine's Day Couples Bracelets

Potential Impact of Foreign Policy on the 2024 Presidential Campaigns

Learn where the candidates stand on major foreign policy issues with James Marquardt, professor of International Relations at Lake Forest College. Compare their positions with the historical position of the major parties.

Tuesday, January 9, 1–2 pm  


Save on Utility Bills

Overview of savings strategies and rebate opportunities from the Citizens Utility Board of Illinois (CUB).

Wednesday, January 10, 7–8 pm 

Movie Screening: *The Red Violin* (R)

An epic adventure unfolds when an instrument appraiser discovers a rare violin dating from 17th century Italy.

Friday, January 12, 1–3:30 pm 


Everything Dope About America Comes from Chicago

Shermann "Dilla" Thomas — neighborhood historian and TikTok sensation — shares fascinating and surprising facts about "the greatest city on Earth."

Tuesday, January 16, 1–2 pm  

Tour of Soups with Chef Kristyn Slick

Warm up with tips and recipes for delicious soups to make at home.

Wednesday, January 17, 7–8 pm 

Blue Viola: A True Story

Hear about the valuable 18th century viola that disappeared after a Chicago Symphony performer accidentally left it on a sidewalk. Presented by Matt Boresi of the Music Institute of Chicago.

Sunday, January 21, 1–2 pm 

Art Workshop: Rangoli **TEENS & ADULTS**

Learn to make *rangoli*, an Indian folk art form made with geometric patterns and floral designs using canvas and acrylic pens. Led by instructor Bhavya Nanjundaiyer.

Tuesday, January 23, 7– 8:30 pm 

Election Literacy 2024: Political Process & Psychology

See details, page 2.

Sunday, January 28, 1– 2 pm  

Science of Snow **TEENS & ADULTS**

What causes snow to fall? Why are no two snowflakes alike? How will climate warming affect Midwest winters? Meteorologist Tom DiLiberto of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) enlightens us.

Wednesday, January 31, 7–8 pm 

Brick by Brick: A History of Naval Station Great Lakes

An expert from the National Museum of the American Sailor shares the history and current role of the Navy's largest training installation, located in North Chicago.

Tuesday, February 6, 1–2 pm  

**From Milton Berle to David Letterman:
A History of TV Comedy**

Media studies expert Brian Rose traces the evolution of comedy from shtick and slapstick to social satire and a celebration of the absurd.

Wednesday, February 7, 7–8 pm 

Parent Education: *Never Enough*

PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K–12

Author Jennifer Breheny Wallace explores how we can teach our kids to strive towards excellence without defeating them.

Wednesday, February 7, 7–8 pm 

Estate Planning Pop-Up

Drop in for a free, confidential 15-minute session with Shire Law Group. Get answers about protecting assets and transferring property. No signup required.

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30–7:30 pm 

The American Folk Song with Mark Dvorak

One of our favorite Old Town School of Folk Music artists shares familiar songs from Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Lead Belly, and the Great American Songbook, enhanced by his trademark historical insight and humor.

Thursday, February 15, 1–2 pm 

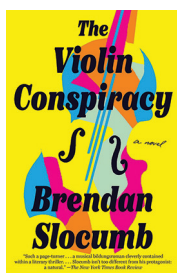
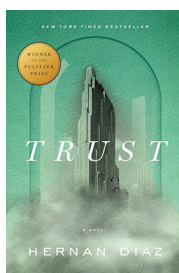
The Art of Listening to Tchaikovsky

Violinist and educator Stephanie Ettelson explains what makes a Stradivarius the crown jewel of all violins. Then listen to excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D major to learn what makes it an enduring favorite.

Sunday, February 18, 1–2 pm 

One Book, One Community: Author Brendan Slocumb
See details, page 8.

Sunday, February 25, 1 pm   Stevenson High School

**Discussions & Meetups****English Language Learners
Conversation Group**

Practice your English conversation skills with a librarian and other non-native English speakers.

Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm 

December 5, January 9 and 23,
February 6 and 20

Games for Grown-ups **TEENS & ADULTS**

Play tabletop games together online or at the library. Open to adults and high school students, individually or with a group.

Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm  

December 10, January 14, February 4,
February 25

World Language Movie Discussion

Use your library card to check out or stream the movie in advance, then join a discussion with other fans of international cinema.

Wednesdays, 7–8 pm 

December 13: *Everything Everywhere
All at Once* (R)

February 28: *Broker* (R)

Book Discussion with Judy Levin

Read and discuss intriguing selections beyond the best sellers.

Thursdays, 10–11:30 am 

December 14: *The Night Ship*

by Jess Kidd


January 11: *Trust* by Hernan Diaz

February 8: *The Violin Conspiracy*

by Brendan Slocumb

Writers' Support Group

Share work, meet fellow writers, get constructive feedback and discuss the publishing business in this informal group. Writers of all levels and genres are welcome.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm 

December 14, January 11, February 8

Reel Talk Movie Discussion

Use your library card to check out or stream the film in advance, then log in to share your thoughts.

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 pm 

December 15: *Tell It To The Bees*

January 19: *The Music of Strangers*

February 16: *Bel Canto*

Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap

For readers in their 20s and 30s. See [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) for details and signup.

Thursdays, 6–8 pm 

The Chatter Box, Long Grove

December 21, January 18, February 15

Off the Hook: Knit & Crochet Group

Craft in the company of other crafters, online. Meets monthly.

Mondays, 7–8:30 pm 

January 15, February 26

Memory Café

Offering people with memory loss and their care partners activity and connection in a safe, supportive environment.

Thursdays, 2–3 pm 

Alcott Center, Buffalo Grove

January 25, February 22

One Book, One Community Book Discussions

Discuss the book selected for this year's community-wide read, *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb. Find related programs and info about the author visit on p.8 or 1book.org.


Wednesday, January 31, 7–8 pm 

Monday, February 12, 2–3 pm 

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Guided discussion of current topics in foreign policy. Choose from in-person or online. Sign up for each month separately.

Fridays, 1–3 pm: February 9, March 8,

April 12, May 10 

Wednesdays, 10:30 am–12:30 pm:

February 21, March 20, April 17, May 15 

Computers & Career Development

Intro to Python

This three-session class gets you started with Python, a high-level, general-purpose programming language. Begin with Variables, Data Types and Expressions, then explore Operations, Functions and Decision Structures, and finally Loops.

Tuesdays, January 9–23, 7–8:30 pm 


Changing Careers

Navigating a return to the workforce or a big change in career focus? Get advice about identifying and communicating your transferable skills for both for-profit and nonprofit career paths. Offered by the partner libraries of the Lake Cook Career Collaborative. Learn more at CareerCollab.org.

Wednesday, January 17, 6:30–7:30 pm 

3D Printing

Learn the skills you need to create your own 3D prints using TinkerCAD. Sign up for each session separately.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm 


January 18: Basics

January 25: Design Considerations

February 1: Moving Parts

Google Apps

Sign up separately for each topic that interests you, from email to file storage to calendars and to-do lists.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm 

February 15: Gmail Basics

February 22: Google Drive

February 29: Google Productivity Apps

ATS (Applicant Tracking Systems) or Bust!

In order to even be looked at by a human, your online job application must first pass the ATS challenge. Career coach Lauren Milligan shares insider info about how to conquer the AI and make it to boss-level review. Presented by the partner libraries of the Lake Cook Career Collaborative. Learn more at CareerCollab.org. Sign up for each session separately.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm 

February 13: Avoiding Pitfalls

February 20: Keyword Strategies

Novel Night



During her tenure at Vernon Area Public Library, librarian Anne Baker Jones has purchased countless volumes for library shelves and recommended innumerable reads to library patrons. But 67 books have a special place in her heart: the books she has selected for Novel Night, the library book discussion group she has led for 11 years.

Jones gives a great deal of consideration to the books she picks for the group. She aims to select thought-provoking novels that are not too long, not too literary, and, importantly, that she wants to read herself.

People in the Novel Night group appreciate her excellent taste. When asked if they would like to pick the books themselves, the group emphatically declined, preferring Jones's recommendations. One participant shared, "I've opened up to so many subjects, ideas, and other cultures and ways of life that I would never have discovered without you and your selections!"

That kind of discovery is one reason book clubs are popular in general. They encourage readers to try books they may not have heard of or picked for themselves. Storytelling is a powerful medium for exploring new ideas and expanding horizons.

"You're an armchair traveler," Jones noted. "A book can take you anywhere. You learn new things in a fun way."

Talking about the book further elevates the experience. "Even if you just want to say, 'I really loved this' ... with a book group, everyone in the room has read that book and is there to talk about it. It's a chance to connect."

As the Novel Night discussion leader, Jones guides the conversation. Participants compare their impressions, ask questions, and see what others think. "It's amazing how someone's life experiences can make them see things differently," she observed. "Sometimes the conversation ends up reinforcing a person's opinion; sometimes they see things in a new light after listening to what others have to say."

Over the years, Jones and a core group of regular attendees have explored many different stories, settings, and topics. Some of their favorites have included *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge ("People loved that book!") and *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

Book number 67 this November will be *Go as a River* by Shelley Read, and then the story of Novel Night will come to an end. After 37 years of service to this library community, Jones is retiring.

What happens next for this reading group is still to be decided. Members have expressed interest in continuing, even while acknowledging that the next chapter will surely be different.

Jones encourages more readers to give a library discussion group a try and says she may even join one herself in retirement: "It really is such fun!"



*One Book, One Community is a community-wide literature and learning experience hosted each year by Vernon Area, Indian Trails, and Cook Memorial public libraries. This winter's series, the eighth annual, is an opportunity to join your neighbors in reading and discussing **The Violin Conspiracy** by **Brendan Slocumb**.*

Programs & Events

Each library offers discussion groups and programs related to the themes of the book. All are welcome at these free events; sign up in advance. Note locations (🏛️ in person, 🟡 online). Find additional programs, details, and signup links at 1book.org

One Book, One Community Kickoff

Stop by to pick up a copy of the book, yours to keep, courtesy of the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District. While supplies last.

Sun, Dec 10, 1 pm 🏛️ Vernon Area

Book Discussions

Tue, Jan 9, 10:30 am 🏛️ Indian Trails

Tue, Jan 23, 10:30 am 🏛️ Indian Trails

Wed, Jan 24, 7 pm 🏛️ Cook Memorial

Wed, Jan 31, 7 pm 🏛️ Vernon Area

Thu, Feb 1, 7 pm 🏛️ Indian Trails

Tue, Feb 6, 7 pm 🏛️ Cook/Aspen

Thu, Feb 8, 10 am 🟡 Vernon Area

Mon, Feb 12, 2 pm 🟡 Vernon Area

Tue, Feb 13, 2 pm 🏛️ Cook Memorial

Wed, Feb 14, 10 am 🏛️ Cook Memorial

Thu, Feb 22, 7 pm 🏛️ Cook/Aspen

Racism & Generational Wealth

Mon, Jan 15, 6:30 pm 🏛️ Indian Trails

Film Screening – *The Red Violin* (R)

Fri, Jan 12, 1 pm 🏛️ Vernon Area

Tue, Jan 16, 5:30 pm 🏛️ Indian Trails

Thu, Feb 8, 1:30 pm 🏛️ Libertyville Civic Center

Fri, Feb 9, 1:30 pm 🏛️ Cook Memorial–Aspen Drive Library, Vernon Hills

Mikhail Pletnev Conducts Glazunov & Tchaikovsky – with Janine Jensen

Fri, Jan 19, 2 pm 🏛️ Indian Trails

Reel Talk Movie Discussion – *The Music of Strangers* (PG-13)

Fri, Jan 19, 3:30 pm 🟡 Vernon Area

Blue Viola: A True Story

Sun, Jan 21, 1 pm 🏛️ Vernon Area

Violins, Music & Lore

Mon, Jan 29, 7 pm 🏛️ Cook Memorial

Instrument Petting Zoo **FAMILIES**

Wed, Jan 31, 4:30 pm 🏛️ Vernon Area

The World of Valuable String Instruments

Mon, Feb 5, 7 pm 🏛️ Indian Trails

Classical Violin Performance

Sat, Feb 10, 2 pm 🏛️ Indian Trails

Black Contributions to Classical Music

Thu, Feb 15, 7 pm 🏛️ Cook Memorial–Aspen Drive Library, Vernon Hills

The Art of Listening to Tchaikovsky

Sun, Feb 18, 1 pm 🏛️ Vernon Area

Film Screening – Janine Jensen: *Falling for Stradivari*

Fri, Feb 23, 2 pm 🏛️ Indian Trails

Finale Event: Author Brendan Slocumb

Readers from across the north suburbs come together for an event with author Brendan Slocumb. Gain insight when you learn the story behind the story and pose your questions to the author. Local indie bookseller The Book Bin will be on hand with copies for purchase. Book signing follows.

Sunday, February 25, 1 pm 🟡 🏛️ Stevenson High School West Auditorium, Lincolnshire



Q&A WITH AUTHOR **Brendan Slocumb**

Q: Your bio and author's note reveal that elements of Ray's story parallel your own. What do you and Ray share? In what ways are you different?

A: Like Ray, I started playing violin very young; I was 9 years old. Nobody in my family really understood the attraction — nobody in the neighborhood was even remotely interested. In the beginning, playing was great — it was something different, and I loved it from the moment I picked up my first violin.

Throughout elementary school, junior high and high school, my classmates didn't understand what I saw in music, and they called me every name in the book, like Ray. Since my college was a school of music within a larger university, I was finally around more like-minded people, so on some level life became much easier.

I differ from Ray in that he is much more adept at playing jazz. I'm terrible at it. I'm actually kind of jealous of him in that regard.

Q: Are there ways that writing a novel is like performing in a symphony or as a soloist?

A: Writing and performing are closely connected for me. I approach writing like a piece of music. Start with an overture that sets everything up. Next comes the introduction, middle section, climax and finale. I outline everything and really focus in on each part like in a concerto or symphony. It's second nature to me because of playing violin for so many years.

Q: Ray's story involves a few key people and events that greatly affect his trajectory: a loving and supportive grandma, a caring college mentor, a significant gift. Is there a person or moment in your life that you recognize as life-changing?

A: My first teacher in college told me to quit because he thought my hands were too big to ever play violin in tune. My second teacher, Dr. Rachel Vetter Huang, really taught me how to play my instrument and to this day, I'm extremely grateful to her.

Has it changed my life? Absolutely. The violin allowed me to travel, fly for the first time, go to college, meet incredible people and help those in need — as well as the opportunity to express myself musically.

Q: Parts of your book are a pleasure to read: the peek behind the curtain of classical music competition, which will be new to many readers, and the "whodunnit" aspect of the story, for example. Other parts are difficult, but necessary on many levels. How did you approach bringing those voices together?

A: My goal was to tell a good story. It's an honest account of the life of a Black violinist. I was given great advice, which was to write honestly. I believe the difficult sections to read reinforce the message that anything worth fighting for may be tough at times, but when you make it through, it will all be worthwhile.

Q: As a successful musician, teacher and author, what advice do you have for young people who have a passion for the arts?

A: If you have a passion for the arts, always remember why you began to love it. Do your best and give 100% all the time, not just when someone is watching.

Q: What do you hope readers take away from *The Violin Conspiracy*?

A: I really want people to do what they love because they love it. Never ever ever let someone tell you you can't do something. If you love it, do it.

Support the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library

The Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library is delighted to announce its first major contribution to support the Library's programs. The Foundation will be donating \$1,500 to the Library for the purchase of 100 copies of this year's "One Book, One Community" book to distribute free of charge to Vernon Area Public Library patrons.

The Foundation is making an end-of-year appeal for your help to support this ambitious gift to our Library and our community. We ask that you join us today by making a one-time monetary gift. Any amount helps our Foundation, but \$15 or more will help us to sponsor at least one copy of the book for the One Book, One Community program.

The One Book, One Community program brings a community read to all local patrons, to spark discussions and connections around the themes of the chosen book. This year's One Book, One Community book selection is *The Violin Conspiracy* by author

Brandon Slocumb. The series kicks off on December 10 with a book giveaway, sponsored by the Foundation. Look on pages 8–9 for details about opportunities to discuss the book, explore related themes, and attend the grand finale event with the author.

Donating to the Foundation is easy and secure. You may make your donation online at VAPLD.info/foundation or by scanning the QR code, which provides direct and secure access to the Foundation's donation website.



How did the Library help you or your family this year? We ask that you lend a hand in return — please think of the Foundation when planning your end-of-year giving. Your generosity will make an immediate difference, right here in our Library.



About the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library

Our goal is simple: make our Library as awesome as possible for all patrons, without raising local taxes. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity affiliated with the Vernon Area Public Library District. The Foundation is raising general donations to support library programs, including sponsorship of speakers and special events. The Foundation also works to secure major gifts to help fund larger goals in the Library's strategic plan, such as long-term building improvements and sustainability projects. If you would like to become involved with the Foundation, or to discuss a major gift, we will be pleased to speak with you. Please email us at info@FVAPLD.org, and a Foundation Director will reach out.

Left: Foundation Directors Julie Bratton and Jay Kasten

Classes & Events *for teens*

Chess Mini-Games GRADES 5–8

Practice basics and advance your skills by playing smaller chess games. Beginners welcome.

Monday, December 4, 7–8:30 pm 🏠

Teen Take & Make Kits GRADES 6–12

Reserve beginning 30 days in advance; pick up on the date indicated.

December 15: Winter Sugar Scrub

January 19: Beeswax Sushi Candles

February 16: Bubble Tea

Intro to Python GRADES 5–8

Learn, practice and experiment with the basics of Python in this hands-on class. No coding experience needed.

Thursday, December 28, 3–4 pm 🏠

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn

GRADES K–8

Log in from your kitchen and cook along live over Zoom using recipes you receive in advance.

Fridays, 7–8 pm 🌐

December 15: Edible Gifts

January 12: Hot Cocoa & Snowman Snacks

February 9: Movie Theater Snacks

Interactive Mummy Mystery

GRADES 6–12

Work in teams to find clues and solve puzzles to solve a mystery set in ancient Egypt.

Thursday, January 4, 2–4 pm 🏠

Online Volunteering GRADES 7–12

Help others from where you are and earn service hours, too. See VAPLD.info/TeenVolunteers for details.

Fall semester: thru December 8

Spring semester: January 10–April 13

Coding with Ozobot GRADES 6–8

Hands-on learning about computer coding — without a computer screen! Ozobot robots use optical sensors to follow lines and read command codes you make with colored markers.

Wednesday, January 10, 7–8 pm 🏠

Kid Market Application Period

THROUGH GRADE 8

Junior entrepreneurs: apply for personalized business coaching, followed by an expo-style market day at the library in April. Details and application: VAPLD.info/KidMarket

January 15–February 19

Giving Back on MLK Day GRADES K–8

Make no-sew blankets, cards and other projects for local charities using provided supplies. Family groups are welcome.

Monday, January 15, 1–2:30 pm or

3–4:30 pm 🏠

Off the Page: A Teen Book Club

GRADES 8–12

Participants get a copy of the book to keep and custard (our treat!)

Mondays, 7–8:15 pm 🏠 Culver's Lincolnshire

January 22: *Ace of Spades* by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

February 19: *Switchback* by Danika Stone

Art Workshop: Rangoli

TEENS & ADULTS

Learn to make *rangoli*, an Indian folk art form made with geometric patterns and floral designs using canvas and acrylic pens. Led by instructor Bhavya Nanjundaiyer.

Tuesday, January 23, 7–8:30 pm 🏠

Camp Half-Blood THRU GRADE 8

Read all of Percy Jackson's adventures? Love Greek and Roman mythology? Join your other demigod friends for exciting games, crafts and other camp activities.

Thursday, January 25, 4:30–5:45 pm or 7–8:15 pm 🏠

Chess Challenge Meetup GR 5–8

Already know how to play chess? Sharpen your skills with practice games.

Monday, January 29, 7–8 pm 🏠

Science of Snow TEENS & ADULTS

Learn how and why snow forms. How will climate warming affect Midwest winters? Meteorologist Tom DiLiberto of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) enlightens us.

Wednesday, January 31, 7–8 pm 🌐

Sphero Bowling GRADES 6–8

Participants gain coding skills as they program the Sphero robot to navigate a maze and knock down bowling pins.

Thursday, February 1, 7–8 pm 🏠

Rebecca Caudill Award

Book Discussion GRADES 6–8

Discuss *City Spies* by James Ponti. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk when you register.

Monday, February 5, 7–8 pm 🏠

Draw Comics with Cartoonist Jerry Craft ALL AGES

Live webinar with bestselling author and illustrator Jerry Craft (*New Kid*, *Class Act*). Attend online or in person at the library for a group watch-and-draw party.

Tuesday, February 6, 7–8 pm 🌐 🏠

Parent Education: *Never Enough*

PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K–12

Author Jennifer Breheny Wallace explores how we can teach our kids to strive towards excellence without defeating them.

Wednesday, February 7, 7–8 pm 🌐

Prom Dress Collection

Donate new or almost new formal wear and accessories to make prom dreams come true. Drop off in the library lobby.

February 24–March 24 🏠

Popsicle Stick Engineering

GRADES 6–8

Exercise your creative and engineering skills to complete challenges using popsicle sticks and binder clips.

Tuesday, February 27, 7–8 pm 🏠

Featured Resources *for elementary-aged kids*



MUSEUM PASSES

Check out a Museum Adventure Pass or an Explore More Illinois pass for free admission or other discounts at popular spots including Chicago Children's Museum or Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights. VAPLD.info/museum-passes



CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN WORLD LANGUAGES

Borrow children's books in Arabic, Hindi, Russian, Chinese, Indigenous languages of North America and more. Great for bilingual families and language learners of all ages. Find them on the shelves near Youth Nonfiction.



BOOKFLIX

Boost reading skills and connect facts to favorite storybooks with Bookflix from Scholastic. Read-alouds with full text and images, perfect for beginning readers. VAPLD.info/BookFlix

Classes & Events *for elementary-aged kids*

Note location with each item (🏛️ in person, 📺 online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1486.

Take & Make Kits **ALL AGES**

Stop by and pick up instructions and supplies to make a craft. No signup required. Available while supplies last beginning:

December 1: Winter Bear

December 21: New Year's Party in a Bag

January 12: Mitten

February 2: Lunar New Year

Chess Mini-Games **GRADES 2-8**

Practice basics and advance your skills by playing smaller chess games. Beginners welcome.

Monday, December 4 🏛️

Grades 2-4: 4:30-6 pm

Grades 5-8: 7-8:30 pm

Winter Card Workshop **GRADES K-5**

Create two handmade cards to give to loved ones. Supplies provided.

Tuesday, December 5 🏛️

Grades K-2: 4:30-5:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 7-8 pm

Family Concerts **ALL AGES**

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11-11:45 am 🏛️

December 9: Miss Julie Helenius

January 13: Istvan & His Imaginary Band

February 17: Nanny Nikki

Hour of Code **GRADES K-2**

Stevenson High School Girls in STEAM lead a local session of this global program, a one-hour introduction to computer science and coding. Choose one session only.

Monday, December 11, 4:30-5:30 pm or 6-7 pm 🏛️

K9 Reading Buddies **GRADES 1-5**

A trained therapy dog listens patiently while your student reads aloud. Signup begins 30 days before each program. Call 224-543-1486 to reserve your 15-minute spot.

Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 pm 🏛️

December 13, January 17, February 21



Family Concert: Nanny Nikki

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn GRADES K-8

Log in from your kitchen and cook along live over Zoom using recipes you receive in advance.

Fridays, 7–8 pm

December 15: Edible Gifts

January 12: Hot Cocoa & Snowman Snacks

February 9: Movie Theater Snacks

Really Gross Anatomy GRADES K-5

Learn about the digestive system while completing delightfully disgusting educational activities. Dress for mess.

Tuesday, December 19

Grades K-2: 4:30–5:15 pm

Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Sing-Along Movie: *Trolls* AGES 3-12

Your child's signup includes a bag of props to use (and keep!) as they dance, sing and interact along with the movie.

Wednesday, December 27, 10–11:30 am or 1:30–3 pm

Intro to Code GRADES 3-5

Learn basic coding concepts; no previous experience required.

Thursday, December 28, 1–2 pm

Bluey Party ALL AGES

Drop in to celebrate this beloved Australian dog family with imaginative games for the whole family. Costumes welcome.

Wednesday, January 3, 9:30–11 am

Parent Education: *Never Enough*

PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12

Author Jennifer Breheny Wallace explores how we can teach our kids to strive towards excellence without defeating them.

Wednesday, February 7, 7–8 pm

Lego Master Builders GRADES K-5

Families work together to complete an engineering-focused bridge-building challenge, then stay for free-build time.

Monday, January 8, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

Winter STEM Storytime GRADES K-2

Featuring a winter story and related hands-on STEM activities.

Tuesday, January 9, 6:30–7:15 pm

Coding with Ozobot GRADES 3-5

Hands-on learning about computer coding — without a computer screen! Ozobot robots use optical sensors to follow lines and read command codes you make with colored markers.

Wednesday, January 10, 4:30–5:30 pm

Kid Market Application Period GRADES 2-8

Junior entrepreneurs: apply for personalized business coaching, followed by an expo-style market day at the library in April. Details and application: VAPLD.info/KidMarket

January 15–February 19

Giving Back on MLK Day GRADES K-8

Make no-sew blankets, cards and other projects for local charities using provided supplies. Family groups are welcome.

Monday, January 15, 1–2:30 pm or 3–4:30 pm

Exploring Great Artists: Marc Chagall GRADES K-5

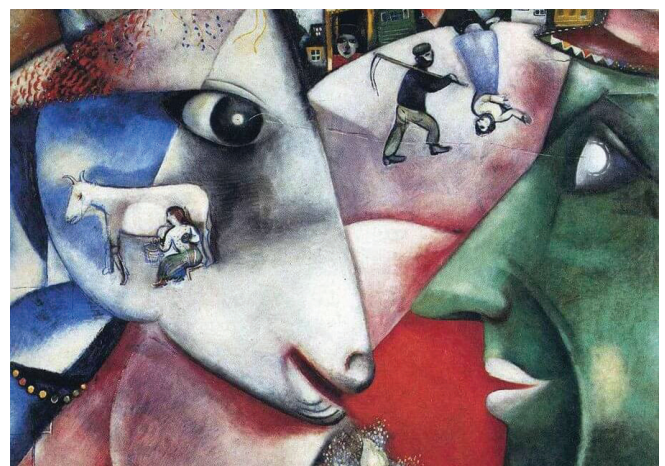
Learn about this famous artist, known for his whimsical, dream-like paintings and stained glass windows. Miss Jane leads you step-by-step to create your own masterpiece inspired by "Blue Circus."

Tuesday, January 16

Grades K-2: 4:30–5:45 pm

Grades 3-5: 7–8:15 pm

Exploring Great Artists: Marc Chagall





Lunar New Year Dance Celebration

Bluestem Award Book Discussion GRADES 3–5

This parent–child book group will discuss *Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom* by Matthew Swanson. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk.

Thursday, January 18, 7–8 pm 🏛️

Warli Painting Workshop GRADES 3–5

Instructor Bhavya Nanjundaiyer guides us as we decorate tiles with Warli paintings, tribal art from western India that uses basic geometric shapes to depict elements of nature.

Tuesday, January 23, 5–6 pm 🏛️

Camp Half-Blood GRADES 4–8

Read (and reread) all of Percy Jackson's adventures? Love Greek and Roman mythology? Join your other demigod friends for exciting games, crafts and other camp activities.

Thursday, January 25, 4:30–5:45 pm or 7–8:15 pm 🏛️

Improv Playhouse Presents: STEPS GRADES K–5

Part improv, part play and part dance party extravaganza! Join the fictional ABCD Dance Team as they work to choreograph a routine that promotes inclusivity. With each dance move, the crew discovers there's no success without teamwork. Together, we'll create a dance for all that truly shines.

Saturday, January 27, 11–11:45 am 🏛️

Chess Challenge Meetup GRADES 2–8

Already know how to play chess? Sharpen your skills with practice games.

Monday, January 29 🏛️

Grades 2–4: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 5–8: 7–8 pm

Instrument Petting Zoo ALL AGES

See, hear, touch, and even play a variety of string, wind and percussion instruments with instructors from the Music Institute of Chicago.

Wednesday, January 31, 4:30–5:30 pm 🏛️

Sphero Bowling GRADES 3–5

Participants gain coding skills as they program the Sphero robot to navigate a maze and knock down bowling pins.

Thursday, February 1, 4:30–5:30 pm 🏛️

Lunar New Year Dance Celebration ALL AGES

Discover the beauty of Chinese culture as dancers Olinda Chang and Mei Xu demonstrate a variety of Chinese folk and classical dances.

Saturday, February 3, 11–12 pm 🏛️

Draw Comics with Cartoonist Jerry Craft ALL AGES

Live webinar with bestselling author and illustrator Jerry Craft (*New Kid*, *Class Act*). Attend online or in person at the library for a group watch-and-draw party.

Tuesday, February 6, 7–8 pm 📺 🏛️

Lego Robotics GRADES K–5

Build and program a model using the LEGO Education WeDo software in this fun, hands-on program.

Monday, February 12 🏛️

Grades K–2 (Smart Spinner): 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3–5 (Ferris Wheel): 7–8 pm

Create Art with Miss Jane GRADES K–5

Follow step-by-step to create a beautiful keepsake for Valentine's Day.

Tuesday, February 13 🏛️

Grades K–2: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3–5: 7–8 pm

The Liquid Nitrogen Show GRADES K–5

Back by popular demand! Excitement rises as the temperature drops in this ultra-cold science demonstration with the Discovery Center Museum.

Thursday, February 22, 4:30–5:30 pm 🏛️

Popsicle Stick Engineering GRADES 3–5

Exercise your creative and engineering skills to complete challenges using popsicle sticks and binder clips.

Tuesday, February 27, 4:30–5:30 pm 🏛️

Take Your Child to the Library Day



On the first Saturday in February, thousands of libraries across the world celebrate **Take Your Child to the Library Day** — a perfect opportunity to take a step along your child's path to lifelong learning. From storytime to school support, your public library provides free and accessible resources for lifelong success.

From birth, storytime provides a solid foundation for future learning. Library storytimes and programs for babies and preschoolers teach social and academic skills that directly translate to school readiness and success. Parents and caregivers can also connect and bond with neighbors who share the same child-rearing experiences as themselves.

During elementary school, becoming a proficient reader is key. Children must first learn to read before they can meet the challenge of reading to learn. Libraries offer programs and resources to build that foundation.

For all ages, your local library is an ideal place for children to play, discover, make friends, and have fun.

Stop in for a visit. Enjoy free activities. Sign up for a library card, meet your children's librarians, and explore all the wonders that your local library has to offer your family.



Libraries Support the Entire Family

Libraries play an important part in the quality of life in a community and provide resources and experiences that give both child and caregiver a chance to succeed.

Support for Lifelong Reading

Find summer reading programs, story time, book clubs, reading recommendations and more to help your entire family read what they love.

Study Spaces & Gathering Places

Indoor and outdoor public spaces provide places for collaborative learning, cozy places to work, and opportunities to connect with your community over activities and interests.

Expert Research Help

Professional librarians curate collections to provide accurate information and balanced perspectives. Tap their expertise to go beyond search engines to get the answers you need.

Resources for Learning & Play

Enjoy free access to books, movies, music, sources of reliable information, hotspots, board games, museum passes, and more.

Job & Career Assistance

Looking for a change? Your library offers resources to help you explore careers and land jobs, from computer classes to resume review and professional certification prep.

Learn New Skills & Pursue Passions

Learn to code, 3D print, or garden. Improve your language skills, become a citizen, or get inspired by a fascinating speaker. There's so much to learn and do at your library!

Source: ALSC Championing Children's Services Toolkit

Classes & Events *for early childhood*

Drop In

It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine. Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age. Claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun!

Baby Rhyme Storytime **0-14 MONTHS**

Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes and books with Miss Kelsey. Then connect with neighbors while your baby plays with educational toys and socializes with others.

Wednesdays, 9:30–10:15 am 

December 6, 13, 20; January 10, 17, 24; February 7, 14, 28

Wiggling Ones **12-24 MONTHS**

Add 30 minutes of joy to your week. Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families and Miss Julia.

Tuesdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 

December 5, 12, 19; January 9, 16, 23; February 6, 13, 20

Together 2s & 3s **2-3 YEARS**


Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.

Mondays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 

December 4, 11, 18; January 8, 15, 22; February 5, 12, 19

Preschool Storytime **3-5 YEARS**

Get ready for school with Miss Emily by practicing the language, listening and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten. Children attend without an adult.

Thursdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 

December 7, 14, 21; January 4, 11, 18; February 1, 8, 15

Starry Night Storytime **AGES 0-6**

Get out those last few wiggles during an evening storytime with Miss Julia.

Thursdays, 6–6:30 pm 

December 14, January 11, February 8


Bluey Party **ALL AGES**

Drop in to celebrate this beloved Australian dog family with imaginative games for the whole family. Costumes welcome.

Wednesday, January 3, 9:30–11 am 

Saturday Storytime **AGES 0-6**

Literacy begins at the library. Expert librarians use books, songs and props that capture the attention of all ages. Perfect for working families, bookworms, wiggleworms and everyone in between.

Saturday, January 6, 10–10:30 am 

New Year's Noon





Sign Up in Advance

Free and open to all. For these storytimes and events, sign up in advance at VAPLD.info/calendar, by telephone at 224-543-1486 or at any public service desk in the library. Note location with each item (🏛️ in person, 📺 online).

Science Detectives AGES 3–6

STEM-themed stories and activities with Miss Lisa Marie.

Fridays, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

December 1, February 2

Evening Stories with Miss Emily AGE 3–GRADE 2

Put on pajamas and enjoy a bedtime story with Miss Emily. Sign up for each month separately.

Wednesdays, 7–7:30 pm 📺

December 6, 13, 20; January 3, 10, 17; February 7, 14, 21

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am 🏛️

December 9: Miss Julie Helenius

January 13: Istvan & His Imaginary Band

February 17: Nanny Nikki

Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin AGES 0–6

Read stories and sing songs in Mandarin and English with Miss Laura.

10–10:30 am 🏛️

Saturday, December 16

Friday, February 9

Sing-Along Movie: *Trolls* AGES 3–12

Your child's signup includes a bag of props to use (and keep!) as they dance, sing and interact along with the movie.

Wednesday, December 27, 10–11:30 am or 1:30–3 pm 🏛️

New Year's Noon AGES 0–6

Dress up and celebrate the New Year with stories, songs and a big countdown just before 12 pm.

Friday, December 29, 11:15 am–12 pm 🏛️

Yoga Storytime AGES 3–8

Miss Sarah combines well-being and early literacy while sharing stories, rhymes and simple poses with you and your child.

Friday, January 5, 10–10:45 am 🏛️

Mini Math Magicians AGES 3–5

Explore math concepts through books, games and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursdays, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

January 25, February 22

Bilingual Storytime: Hindi AGES 0–6

Explore the Hindi language with The Language Labs through songs, dance, games, activities, riddles and rhymes.

Friday, January 26, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

Snowy Sensory Storytime AGES 0–6

For children of all abilities. We'll have SNOW much fun, exploring, singing, reading and playing together!

Tuesday, January 30, 10–10:45 am 🏛️

Sunshine Squad AGES 0–6

Stories and activities focused on making the world a kinder, sunnier place for everyone.

10–10:45 am 🏛️

Wednesday, January 31: Skin Color Diversity

Saturday, February 24: Spread Love

Vernon Area Public Library
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Lincolnshire, IL 60069-2901

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Permit No. 34

ECRWSS

CAR-RT SORT Postal Customer

Connect

VAPLD.info

Main: 847-634-3650

App: Look for Vernon Area Public Library in your device's App Store

Get a Library Card

Free and available to all district residents. Apply online at VAPLD.info/card or visit.

Returns

Return materials 24/7 to the drive-up slot on the front of the library or at these drop boxes:
VAPLD.info/bookdrops

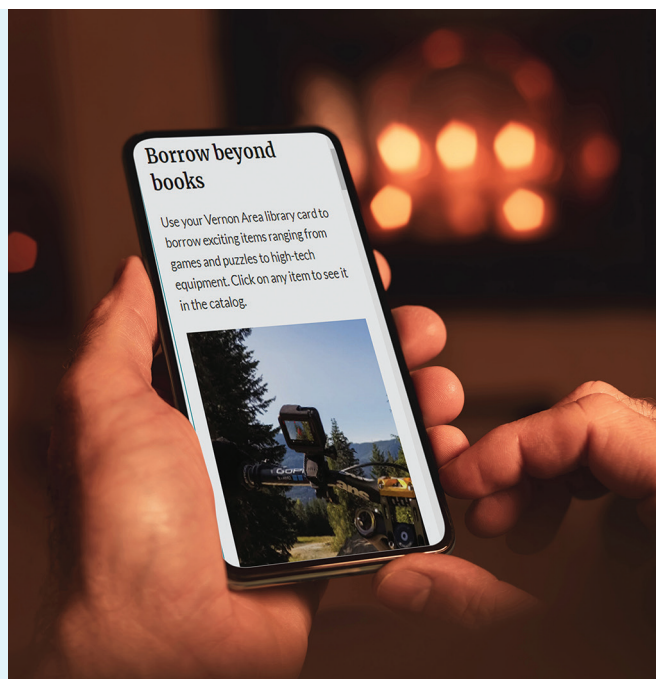
Open

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 9 pm
Friday–Saturday 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

Before-hours access is available daily for people who prefer a "mask required" environment. See VAPLD.info or call 847-634-3650 for info about special operating hours.

Closed

December 24–25
December 31–January 1



▲ Check this out

Whether your resolution is to save money, reduce your carbon footprint, clear clutter, learn something new, connect with your community, or take more quality time for yourself, your library can help. Subscribe to Library Pro Tips for snack-sized ideas for making the most of your library card this year: VAPLD.info/subscribe

*This magazine is printed on recycled paper
made of 30% post-consumer waste.*

